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TOWN OF DEERFIELD

Massachusetts

Annual Report

1998

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**DEERFIELD MUNICIPAL OFFICES
8 CONWAY STREET
SOUTH DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

1998

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS**



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STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

First Congressional District
Eighth Councilor District
Hampshire-Franklin Senatorial District
No. 11

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Edward M. Kennedy, Boston
2400 JFK Building
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 565-3170
or

315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4543

John Kerry, Boston
1 Financial Plaza
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 785-4610
or

421 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2742

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

John Olver, Amherst
490 Westfield Road
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 532-7010
or

1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5335

GOVERNOR

Argeo Paul Cellucci
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 727-9173
or

Governor's Regional Office
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 784-1200

STATE SENATOR

Stanley C. Rosenberg, Amherst
1 Prince Street
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 584-1649
or

State House, Room 212
Boston, Massachusetts 02133
(617) 722-1481

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Stephen Kulik, Worthington
330 Montague City Road, Suite 102
Turners Falls, MA 01376
(413) 772-2727
or

State House, Room 167
Boston, Massachusetts 02133
(617) 722-2692

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Brad Councilman, Chair

FACTS ABOUT DEERFIELD

Annual Town Meeting Date: Last Monday in April

Annual Election: First Monday in May

Settled 1669

Incorporated 1673

Location:	In Connecticut Valley on Routes 5 and 10, Interstate 91, and Route 116
Area:	33.57 Square Miles
Altitude:	Deerfield Common, 161 Feet South Deerfield Common, 204 Feet
Population:	5018 (1990 Census)
Form of Government:	Town Meeting
Public Schools:	Deerfield Elementary School Frontier Regional Junior and Senior High School Franklin County Technical School, Turners Falls
Private Schools:	Bement School Deerfield Academy Eaglebrook School
Police:	Six Full-Time Officers
Fire Protection Districts:	Deerfield Area Fire Protection District Chester Yazwinski, Jr., Chief South Deerfield Fire Districts Stanley P. Stokarski, Jr. (retired) Gary Stokarski, Chief
Public Library:	Tilton Library
Park:	Mount Sugarloaf Reservation
Town Highways:	82 Miles

State Highways: 17 Miles

Water Supply: Deerfield Fire District
South Deerfield Water Supply District

Deerfield Fire District
Water Commissioners:
(3 yr. Term)

Kenneth Williams, III	2001
Edward Belanger	1999
Robert R. Lawrence	2000

South Deerfield Water
Supply Commissioners:
(3 yr. Term)

J. Matthew Powers	2001
Edward Crafts	1999
Kim R. Crossman	2000

TOWN OF DEERFIELD

General Information:

Deerfield is a community located in southern Franklin County. It is comprised of 32.6 square miles with 99 miles of roads. Deerfield is bordered on the east by the Connecticut River and on the west by the Berkshire foothills.

The Town has a Town Meeting form of government. The Annual Town Meeting is held on the last Monday in April with elections following on the first Monday in May. Town meetings are held at the Gymnasium located at the Frontier Regional School, North Main Street, South Deerfield. The Town Elections were held at the new Municipal Offices, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield. The precinct location for all voting is now at the Deerfield Municipal Offices, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Offices are located in the Municipal Office Building, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield.

Assessors' Office (Full-time Clerk)
(413) 665-7184

Building Inspector (Full-time Clerk)
(413) 665-4806

Conservation Commission/Planning Board (Clerical support only)
(413) 665-4806

Police Department (Full-time Clerk)
(413) 665-2606 – dispatch answering

Selectmen's Office (Full-time Clerk)
(413) 665-4645
(413) 665-1401 – Administrative Assistant

Town Accountant (Hours: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
(413) 665-8860

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer (Full-time Secretaries)
(413) 665-2130

Town of Deerfield – Facsimile Number: (413) 665-7275

TOWN OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICIALS

	Telephone	Salary	Term
Assessors, Board of (3-year term)			
John Coderre	665-4086	\$ 1,400.00	2001
Richard Stellman, Chair	665-2175	1,200.00	1999
David Rohrs	665-4410	1,200.00	2000
Constables (3 year term)			
Roger Sadoski, Jr.	665-4587		2001
James Rosenthal	665-3812		2001
Deerfield School Committee (3 year term)			
Kenneth Cuddeback, Chair	665-3551	\$ 150.00	1999
Martha Barrett	665-8225	100.00	2001
Mary Ramon	665-2898	100.00	2000
Albert N. Olmstead, Jr.	665-2472	100.00	2000
Deborah Sokoloski		100.00	2001
Elector Under Oliver Smith Will (1 year term)			
Richard Stellman	665-2792	\$ 20.00	1999
Frontier Regional School Committee (3 year term)			
Thomas Scanlon	665-4083		1999
Karl Koenigsbauer	774-3389		2000
Moderator (3 year term)			
Peter James	665-7104		1999
Planning Board (3 year term)			
Kenneth Cuddeback, Chair	665-3551		2001
Elizabeth Schmidt	665-3550		1999
James Pasiecznik			2000
Arthur Rogers	773-3395		1999
Joanna S. Creelman	772-2381		2000
Carolyn Shores Ness	774-5824		2000
Laura Winter			2001
Bridget Heller, Administrative Assistant			
Julie Gray, Clerical Assistant			
Selectmen, Board of (3 year term)			
John P. Paciorek, Chair	665-3089	\$1,400.00	1999
Leonard T. Grybko, Jr.	665-7760	1,200.00	2000
Mark E. Gilmore	665-4957	1,200.00	2000
Elizabeth A. Kirkwood			1977-1998

Tilton Library Board of Trustees (2 year term)

Carol Christensen	665-3454	2000
James E. Taylor	665-3111	2000
Margaret Kostiuk	774-3800	2000
Elizabeth Schmitt	665-3550	1999
Daniel Carmody, Jr.	665-3442	1999

Tilton Library Board of Permanent Trustees

Mary Ann Barnes	665-4808
Kathleen Klaes	665-3593
Pamela Oakes	665-2686
Helen Storey	665-8525

Town Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector (3 year term)

William H. Leno	665-2130	2000
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Tree Warden (3 year term)

Milton Williams, Sr.	773-8301	1999
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APPOINTED OFFICIALS**MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS****Deerfield Community Cable Programming Committee**

Frank Sherburne, Chair	2001
Phil Allard	1999
Jim Carvalho	2000
Dan Conlon	2001
Amy Helstowski	2000
Fred Wissmann	2001
Jane Wrisley	1999

Finance Committee

Warren T. Grinnan, Chair	2001
Mary A Stokarski	2001
Daniel L. Blanchard	2001
Richard Andriole	1999
Janet Uden	2000
Mark Russo	1999
Thomas Clark	1999

Franklin County Technical School District Committee (1 year term)

Marshall J. Aronstam	2001
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**Deerfield School Committee Representative to Frontier**

Mary Ramon

Superintendent of Schools

John J. Welch, Ed. D., Superintendent

APPOINTED STAFF AND COMMITTEES

(Term runs FY July 1 through June 30)

Americans with Disabilities Committee

Margaret Doyle
Jeffrey Mroczek
Shirley Patterson

Americans with Disabilities Coordinator

Harold L. Eaton, Jr.

Animal Inspector

Michael Raffa

Assessors' Office

Karen Menard, Clerk

Board of Health

John P. Paciorek	1999
Leonard T. Grybko, Jr.	2000
Mark E. Gilmore	2001
Elizabeth A. Kirkwood	1977-1998

Board of Health, Agents

Richard A. Asmann
Harold L. Eaton, Jr.

Building Code Board of Appeals (3 year term)

Ronald Bohonowicz	2001
Roger Sadoski	2001
Leonard Grybko, Sr.	1999
Grace Friary	2000
Francis Olszewski	2000
Vacancy	

Building Inspector

Richard A. Asmann

Building Inspector, Alternates

James Hawkins
David Jenkins

Building Inspector's Office

Julie Gray, Clerk

Burial Agent

William Leno	1999
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Civil Defense Director/Emergency Manager

Robert Lawrence	1999
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Conservation Commission (3 year term)

Stephen Barrett	2001
James Pittittieri	2001
Paul Sokoloski, Chair	1999
Louis Misiun, Jr.	2000
Julie Gray, Clerk	

Council on Aging (2 year term)

Dorothy Butkiewicz	2001
Stephen Perkins	2001
Janet Filary	2001
Elizabeth Turner	2001
Agnes Kruk	1999
Louis Seay	1999

Deerfield Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (3 year term)

John Ciesla, Chair	2001
Paul Olszewski	1999
Frank Cackowski	2000
Helen Petrovic	2000
Vacancy (low income)	

Deputy Dog Officer

All Police Officers and Dog Officers

E-911 Coordinator

Gary Stokarski	1999
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Fence Viewers

Richard Smiaroski
Vacancy

Forest Warden

Gary Stokarski

Forest Warden, Deputies

David Bohonowicz
Thomas Clark
Chester Yazwinski, Jr.

Franklin County Solid Waste Committee

Timothy Fannin
Mark E. Gilmore

Franklin County Transit Authority Representative

Robert J. Decker, III

Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Representative

John P. Paciorek

Gas Inspector
Walter Nye

Gas Inspector, Alternate
John Jankowski

Hazardous Waste Coordinator
Lynn Rose

Highway Department/Transfer Station
Patrick Otto, Foreman
Roger Baker
Wesley Dickinson
Jason Miller
Michael Phillips
Dennis Welcome
Michael Hassay (Part-time)

Historic Commission (3 year term)
George Melnik 2001
Lucy Sokoloski 2001
Edna Stahelek 2000

Industrial Development Financing Authority (3 year term)
John Ciesla 2001
Frank Cackowski 1999
Paul Olszewski 1999
Helen Petrovic 2000
Vacancy

Keeper of the Cemetery Maps
Harold L. Eaton, Jr.

Keeper of the Town Clock
Charles Smead

Local Census Director
William H. Leno 1999

MA Cultural Council (allowed to serve three, two-year terms)
Joseph O'Rourke 2nd term 2000

Master Plan Subcommittee
Carolyn Ness 1999
Arthur Rogers 1999
Bette Schmitt 1999
JoAnne Creelman 1999
Paul Pajak 1999
John P. Paciorek 1999
Tom Clark 1999
Peter LaBarbera 1999

Personnel Board

J. Matthew Powers, Chair	2000
John Ciesla	2001
Charles Sakowicz	1999
Richard Andriole, Finance Committee Representative, Acting Chair	
Daniel L. Blanchard, Finance Committee Representative	

Plumbing Inspector

John Jankowski

Plumbing Inspector, Alternates

Malcolm Cichy
Steven Baranoski

Police Department

Michael Wozniakewicz, Chief of Police
Raymond Burniske, Officer
David F. Leuschner, Officer
Harry S. Ruddock, III, Officer
Sean T. Ward, Officer
Robert Warger, Officer
Carole Giusto, Clerk

Police Department Special Officers

David Hastings
Michael Krusiewski
Joseph Mieczkowski
Brian Ravish
Christopher Redmond
William Rotkiewicz, Jr.
Roger Sadoski
R. Eric Seaholm

Police Department Special Appointments

Elizabeth A. Kirkwood, Matron
John P. Paciorek
Leonard T. Grybko, Jr.
Mark E. Gilmore
Carole Giusto, Matron
Harold L. Eaton, Jr.

Public Weighers (1 year term)

David Lewandowski	1999
Ronald Herzig	1999
Robert Slongwhite	1999
Mike Smead	1999

Recreation Committee

Peter Kuzdeba, Chair	1999
Tom Antonellis	1999
Charles Brooks	1999

Denise Cuddeback	1999
Charlene Galenski, Secretary	1999
Tom Stone	1999
Rod Warnick	1999

Registrar of Voters (3 year term)

William H. Leno, Clerk	2000
Linda Parker, Democrat	2001
Constance Melnik, Republican	1999
Lucy Sadowsky, Democrat	2000
Eleanor Thorpe, Alternate	

Right to Know Coordinator

Harold L. Eaton, Jr.

School Crossing Guards

Sharyn Paciorek
Bridget Heller, Alternate
Carole Giusto, Alternate

Sealer of Weights and Measures (1 year term)

Rockwell Lively	1999
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Selectmen's Office

David G. Nixon, Administrative Assistant
Jacqui Moro, Clerk (resigned)
Judith Jennings, Clerk (resigned)
Kayce D. Nelson, Clerk

Sewer Study Subcommittee

Kenneth Cuddeback, Chair
Teri McGoldrick
John Kazar
Laura Winter
Mark E. Gilmore
Sharon Long
Jim Pasiecznik
Erich Ness
Don Friary
Bruce Hunter

Superintendent of Streets

Harold L. Eaton, Jr.

Superintendent of Sewers

Harold L. Eaton, Jr.

Surveyor of Lumber and Wood

Milton Williams, Sr.

Swim/Recreation Program Committee (3 year term)

Sharyn Paciorek	1999
Edith Ostrowski	2001
Charlene Galenski	2000

Town Accountant (3 year term)

Eunice Apanell	2001
----------------	------

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer's Office

Eileen Strzegowski, Secretary
Betty Billings, Secretary
Francis Stokarski, Secretary (retired)

Town Counsel

Edward Pepyne, Jr.

Town Memorial Forest Committee

John P. Paciorek
Leonard T. Grybko, Jr.
Mark E. Gilmore
Milton Williams, Sr.
Edward Crafts

Tri-Town Beach Commission (3 year term)

Sharyn Paciorek	1999
Edith Ostrowski	2001
Charlene Galenski	2001

Veterans' Agent/Director of Veterans' Services

Leo Parent

Veterans' Grave Officer

Roland Lemay

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Donald Chappell, Chief Operator
Edward Jablonski, Certified Operator
Brian Giroux, Certified Operator

Wells, Fred W. Fund, Trustee

Donald Smiaroski

Wiring Inspector

William McGoldrick

Wiring Inspector, Alternates

Wayne Shaw
Bruce St. Peter

Workman's Compensation Agent/Unemployment Compensation Agent

William H. Leno	2001
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Zoning Board of Appeals (3 year term)

Ronald Bohonowicz, Chair	2001
Roger Sadoski	2001
Leonard Grybko, Sr.	1999
Francis Olszewski	2000
Grace Friary	2000
Vacancy	
Stephen Barrett, Alternate	1999
Julie Gray, Clerical Assistant	

ELECTED POSITIONS

Assessors: The Board of Assessors consists of three members. One member is elected each year for a three-year term. Office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Assessors meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. (unless otherwise posted) in the Municipal Offices, Assessors' Office, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield.

The Assessors are required by Massachusetts law to value all real and personal property, based on "full and fair cash value" and are responsible for setting the tax rate; committing real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise tax to the Tax Collector; updating records for new construction; all abatements and motor vehicle excise; updating town tax maps; changes of address for tax billing purposes; reviewing all applications for abatements, exemptions and special land use qualifications.

Abatements

Real Estate and Personal Property – An abatement application must be filed within thirty days of the first date of mailing of the tax bills.

Motor Vehicle Excise – Applications must be filed before December 31st of the year following the year for which the excise is assessed. An abatement cannot be granted for less than \$5.00, nor can it reduce the tax to less than \$5.00.

Personal Exemptions

Clause 17D – (Surviving spouse, minor or taxpayer over seventy) Exemption is \$175.00 of actual taxes due. Surviving spouse must have owned and occupied domicile on July 1st for the year to which the tax relates. A person over age seventy must have owned and occupied domicile for not less than five years. The total estate (including domicile, if non-income producing) cannot exceed \$40,000.

Clause 41C – (Elderly over seventy) Exemption is \$500.00 of actual taxes due. Applicant must have been domiciled in Massachusetts for preceding ten years, and must have owned and occupied domicile for five years. Gross receipts cannot exceed \$13,000 if single, or \$15,000 combined, if married. The total estate (excluding domicile, if it does not exceed two dwellings) cannot exceed \$28,000 if single, or \$30,000 combined, if married.

Clause 22A through 22E – (Veterans) Exemptions range from \$175.00 of actual taxes due to 100% of actual taxes due. Applicants must have lived in Massachusetts at least six months prior to entering the service or have resided in the Commonwealth for five years prior to date of filing.

Clause 41A (Tax Deferral), Clause 37 (Blind Person) Exemption must be filed annually with the Board of Assessors, on or before December 15th. If the bills are mailed after September 15th, the taxpayer has three months from the date of mailing to apply.

Property Exemptions

Chapter 61 (Forest Land) Land must consist of ten contiguous acres to qualify as Forest Land. Owner must obtain approved ten-year management plan from the State Forester and submit to the Assessors a written application, forester's certification and management plan, prior to September 1st.

Chapter 61A (Agricultural/Horticultural Land) Land must consist of at least five contiguous acres actively devoted to agricultural use. Gross sales from land use must be at least \$500.00 per year (or intent must be shown to produce this amount). Land must have been actively devoted to this use in the preceding two years. Applications must be filed annually on or before October 1st of the year preceding the year for which classification is sought. **EXAMPLE:** Application filed in 1998, by October 1st, will be for the Fiscal Year 2000.

Selectmen: The three-member Board of Selectmen also serves as the Board of Health. One member is elected each year to serve a three-year term.

The Board of Selectmen meets each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise posted). Meetings are held at the Town Municipal Offices, Main Meeting Room, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield.

The Selectmen are the Chief Administrative Officers of the Town. The office of Selectman has over 300 years of tradition and custom behind it. In the early years of the Commonwealth there were no elected town officials, and town meeting would periodically "select" prominent citizens to perform the business of the town between meetings. In 1633, towns in Massachusetts, borrowing the concept from their English heritage, started electing "select men" to serve for fixed terms. Power and duties varies from town to town. Today, the power of the Selectmen is very limited. There are over 700 general law provisions relating to the Selectmen. These laws have made operation of the town more complicated. It is very important that members become familiar with applicable laws.

One of the most important functions of the Selectmen is the preparation of the Town Meeting warrant. The warrant is composed of articles outlining each subject on which the town meeting must vote. Articles for town finances, zoning changes, accepting funds and grants or disposing of property are a few examples of town warrant articles. Once voted, it is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen to see to the implementation of the wishes of the voters.

Selectmen at their weekly meetings, hear from department heads on the status of the Town, make every effort to take care of citizens' complaints and questions, approve all bills submitted for payment on bi-weekly "warrant", and any other business that comes before them. Examples of permits issued through the Selectmen's office are:

All Board of Health Permits and Licenses

Catering, Food Service, Offal, Disposal Works Installers, Summer Camps, and many others – fees begin at \$25.00.

Tag Sales

Two permits are allowed each year – fee is \$5.00 per day.

Home Business

A public hearing is required – an initial fee of \$50.00, with a \$10.00 annual renewal.

Transient Vendor License

\$25.00 per day.

Auctioneer Permit

Auctioneers are required to furnish a State License Number.

Residential \$50.00 per year

Non-Residential \$25.00 per day

Car Dealers

Class I \$50.00 per year

Class II \$30.00 per year

Class III \$20.00 per year

Tax Collector/Town Clerk/Treasurer: This is a three year combined elected position and a brief description of duties has been listed below.

Tax Collector: The office of the Tax Collector obtains assessments of property from the Assessors who also set the rates. Bills are mailed out and collected by this office. Any changes have to be made through the Assessors' office.

Personal Property Tax Bills – Value set by Assessors and mailed and collected by the Tax Collector. Payments are due and payable thirty days from the mailing date.

Real Estate Tax Bills – Value of property is set by the Assessors and is billed for the fiscal year on a January 1st assessment. Bills are presently issued in two halves and are due and payable on November 1st and May 1st. Because of the delay by the Assessors in setting the tax rate, bills are not always ready for mailing on October 1st. The first half of the bill is then due and payable thirty days after the mailing date, and the second half is due and payable on May 1st. Although every effort is made to see that all property owners receive tax bills, failure to receive a bill does not relieve the owner of the responsibility of payment nor of any interest, fees or penalties which may be levied for late payments. Taxes for the Deerfield Area Fire Protection District, South Deerfield Fire District and South Deerfield Water District are payable in the Tax Collector's office thirty days from mailing date.

Excise Tax Bills – Value set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is due and payable to the Town Tax Collector thirty days after mailing. Data and bills are compiled by the Commonwealth and may be corrected for minor items by the Assessors. Other items may be corrected through the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. Unpaid bills are referred to the Deputy Tax Collector and if uncollected, may result in suspension of license and/or registration, by the Registry.

Sewer Use Bills – Rates are set by the Board of Selectmen. Bills are sent to users on the sewer system only, twice a year, and are due and payable, in the Tax Collector's office, thirty days after mailing.

District Property Tax Bills – Value set by the Assessors and mailed and collected by the Tax Collector. Payments are due and payable the same as the Real Estate Tax Bills.

Note: District User Fees are established and collected by the Districts. These Districts are: Deerfield Fire District and the South Deerfield Water District.

Town Clerk: The Town Clerk is responsible for recording Town Meetings and Elections; maintaining records of Registered Voters, Dog Licenses, Fishing and Hunting Licenses, Street Listings, Town Census, Births, Deaths and Marriages; certification of all vital records. Duties and responsibilities are clearly set by Massachusetts General Law.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for all town money. The Treasurer oversees the payment of payroll and departmental bills and is empowered by town meeting vote to borrow funds if necessary. These duties are clearly set by Massachusetts General Law.

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR 1998

Animals	Adult	Young
1. Cattle: (Adults=2 Years & over)		
Number of dairy	559	512
Number of beef	67	62
Number of Steers/Oxen	16	39
2. Number of goats (adults=1yr & up)	7	8
3. Number of sheep (adults=1yr & up)	83	29
4. Swine:		
Number of breeders	18	-
Number of feeders	8	-
5. Equines		
Number of horses	79	2
Number of ponies	2	-
Number of stables accessible to the Public	1	-
6. Number of llamas	-	-
7. Poultry		
Number of chickens	128	-
Number of turkeys	10	-
Number of ratites	-	-
Number of waterfowl	34	-
Number of gamebirds	-	-
8. Number of rabbits	35	-
9. Other Animals (please specify)	-	-
Quarantines Issued:	6	
Quarantines Re-issued:	5	
Quarantines in Effect:	2	

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Raffa
Inspector of Animals

ASSESSORS' OFFICE

How The Assessors Determine Value

Valuation in Massachusetts is based on "full and fair cash value," the amount a willing buyer would pay a willing seller on the open market. Assessors must collect, record, and analyze a great deal of information about property and market characteristics in order to estimate the fair market value of all taxable properties in their communities. Properties such as churches and educational institutions are also valued, even though they are exempt from taxation. The state of Massachusetts requires that all properties be reviewed every three years and that the assessed values be compared with sales statistics for the current time period. Deerfield just completed a revaluation for Fiscal Year 1999. These values will remain in place for the next two years, unless a change is made to the property or sales indicate a drastic change in values for a particular type or class of property. The Town of Deerfield uses an independent appraisal service to inspect properties and to analyze sales.

Why Assessments Go Up When A Property Hasn't Changed?

Since assessments reflect market value, rising real estate prices in the community will result in *generally* higher assessments. As several factors influence market value, the changes to assessments will not be uniform. One such factor is the style of the building. For example, one year, colonials will be in demand, thus raising their market value more than other styles and, another year, capes will be more popular. Another factor is location. For various reasons, certain neighborhoods are more attractive to buyers (in-town one year, rural the next...). Again, the resulting demand raises the price for homes in the preferred neighborhood. In addition, the condition of the property will affect its value. For two homes comparable in style, grade, and location, the better-maintained home will have a higher value. So, while changes made to a property can affect value, these other factors must also be considered.

What If You Disagree With The Assessed Value Of Your Property?

If, in your opinion, the assessment of your property is incorrect, by all means discuss it with the Board of Assessors. When you receive notice of a new valuation, you may make an appointment to talk with them. At the meeting, you will need to specify the items about which you disagree: Is there some misinformation on the property record card? Do you find values of *comparable* properties lower or higher than yours? If so, cite specific examples. Information on all properties is available in the Assessors' Office.

Abatements and Appeals

Once the tax bills have been mailed, an aggrieved taxpayer must go through the more formal process of filing for an abatement. These forms may be picked up at the Assessors' office. They must be filed with the Assessors within thirty days from the date the tax bills were mailed.

If the Assessors do not grant the desired abatement, the taxpayer also has the right to appeal to the State's Appellate Tax Board. The appeal must be filed within three months of the denial. Information and applications are available from:

The Appellate Tax Board
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02004
(617) 727-3100

How Property Taxes Are Assessed

Before Proposition 2½ went into effect in Massachusetts in Fiscal Year 1982, the amount to be raised by the property tax in each community was essentially determined by what the community decided to spend in the coming year, either through its Annual Town Meeting, or its City and Town Council. So, budgets were determined and, then, the tax rates were set to raise that amount. With Proposition 2½ in effect, the process is reversed. The tax limitation law sets the maximum amount a community may collect, or levy, from the property tax to "...2.5 percent of the total full and fair cash value of all real and personal property in the community". Budgets must be made to fit within that limit (with the exception of any override(s) passed by the voters). At the Town Meeting, a budget is adopted. The budget total less the monies anticipated from other sources, such as state aid and local receipts from fees, etc., is the amount that needs to be raised through property taxes.

Determining The Tax Rate

Before the tax rate can be set, the Town must decide if they want all property to be taxed at the same rate, or if they prefer separate rates for a certain class of property, such as commercial/industrial. So, the Assessors prepare a Tax Rate Recapitulation sheet showing the total value for each class of property and its percentage of the town total. Using this information, the Board of Selectman hold a Classification Hearing to decide if there will be a single or multiple tax rate(s).

What Assessors Do Not Do

Assessors do not make the laws that affect property owners. Tax laws are enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature. Various guidelines and regulations to implement the legislation are established by the Department of Revenue. The Assessors must follow these procedures and act in accordance with the law.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1999
TOWN APPROPRIATIONS VOTED APRIL 28, 1998

Appropriations To Be Raised:

From Taxation	\$7,671,945.96	
From Free Cash	437,306.06	
From Available Funds	<u>827,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,936,252.02</u>

Other Amounts To Be Raised:

Overlay Deficits of Prior Years	\$7,054.28	
Cherry Sheet Offsets	7,815.00	
Franklin County Retirement	117,992.00	
Veterans' Agent	9,496.00	
Air Pollution 1,236.00		
Regional Transit Authority	4,461.00	
RMV Surcharge Underestimate	4,240.00	
Overlay Reserve	<u>88,256.65</u>	<u>\$240,550.93</u>

Total Amount To Be Raised: \$9,176,802.95

Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources:

Estimated Receipts From State:

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$1,630,846.00	
Cherry Sheet Overestimates	805.00	<u>\$ 1,631,651.00</u>

Local Estimated Receipts:

Motor Vehicle Excise	\$485,000.00	
Other Excise	2,500.00	
Penalties & Interest	30,000.00	
Payment In Lieu Of taxes	80,000.00	
Sewer Charges	497,880.00	
Trash Disposal	100,000.00	
Fees	25,000.00	
Rentals	1,000.00	
Departmental Revenue - Cemeteries	500.00	
Other Departmental Revenue	7,500.00	
Licenses & Permits	75,000.00	
Fines & Forfeits	180,000.00	
Investment Income	130,000.00	
Room Occupancy Tax	65,000.00	
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	3,000.00	<u>\$1,682,380.00</u>

Free Cash	\$ 437,306.06	
Other Available Funds	<u>827,000.00</u>	

Total Estimated Receipts & Revenue \$4,578,337.06

Total Tax Levy \$4,598,465.89

Total Assessed Value of Real & Personal Property \$349,693,224.00

Total Levy ÷ Total Value x 1,000 = Tax Rate 4,598,465.89 ÷ 349,693,224.00 x 1,000 = \$13.15

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER

In 1998, new housing starts fell 1 from the previous year to 8. This is off 27 percent from the yearly average since 1989 of 11. Some projects of note completed this year include the Frontier Regional High School, the Louis and Marx dormitories at Deerfield Academy and the Alford Arena ice skating rink at Eaglebrook School.

The total number of permits (286) was down 6% from last year, however, the total collected in permit fees increased 8.4%. This is due in a large part to the permit fee increases in May of 1998. Total value of construction decreased just over 50% from the previous year. This illustrates the absence of any major projects beginning in 1998.

Building permits issued for 1998 were as follows:

<u>Type of Permit</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Permit Fee</u>	<u>Building Cost</u>
Commercial	3	\$ 10,817.80	\$ 418,00.00
Single Family	8	7,554.12	1,576,000.00
Duplex	0	0.00	0.00
Multi-Family	0	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	<u>275</u>	<u>26,014.39</u>	<u>4,868,714.41</u>
TOTALS	286	\$ 44,386.31	\$ 6,862,714.41
ANNUAL AVERAGE 1989 Through 1998	247	\$ 33,764.98	\$ 9,540,597.34

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind the residents of Deerfield that a permit and an inspection are required prior to the use of a wood or pellet stove in Massachusetts. Most fires caused by wood stoves are due to improper installation.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard A. Asmann
Building Commissioner

1998 REPORT OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

To the residents of FCSWMD member municipalities:

This District unveiled several new initiatives this past year, and took major steps toward determining where the solid waste from our member towns will go after June of 1999, when the Bernardston landfill finally closes. We issued a request for bids for hauling and disposal costs, which at this writing (January) are still being evaluated. One thing is certain: the "sticker shock" of increased disposal costs, that has been predicted for many years, has finally arrived. We are working to keep the costs down by contracting regionally.

Our three new hazardous waste "super sites" opened in the fall, accepting products such as automotive fluids, oil-based paints, fluorescent bulbs, and rechargeable batteries in Bernardston, Colrain, and Conway. The sites have been well received and well used, even though users must pay a small disposal fee. At least one of these sites is open every weekend throughout the year. As we expected, the super sites siphoned off much of the material that traditionally goes to the annual Household Hazardous Waste collection, reducing costs to the towns.

We provided residents of all our towns the opportunity to get rid of their old electronic components with our Consumer Electronics Collection at three sites (Erving, Greenfield, and Shelburne) in September. About 12 tons of old computers, VCRs, and stereos came out of closets and attics, and all were brought to Umass, where they are "de-manufactured" before being recycled. Many of the items had been in storage for 10 years or more, testifying to peoples' reluctance to discard something that "must have some value." We are planning another collection for this summer.

Ten schools in our region are now outfitted with special units to wash milk cartons which, believe it or not, make up some 30% of a school's trash. Once washed, the cartons are fully recyclable. They are now being collected and transported to the Springfield MRF.

Our recycling programs continue their effectiveness. Most of our towns joined the new state program that reimburses towns for every ton of recyclable materials collected in the town. This program (called MRIP) brought in over \$31,000 in new revenue to our towns. Many towns use this money to reduce their assessments for the Solid Waste District. More than 5,463 tons of recyclable paper, bottles, cans plastic, and aluminum were sent to the Springfield MRF or to Goodworks Recycling, saving approximately \$300,000 in disposal costs, while generating more than \$21,000 in revenue. Our combined recycling rate was 45%--just shy of the state's overall goal of 46%, but way ahead of the overall state average of 34%. Clearly, all of your efforts at separating recyclables from your trash are paying off!

Our waste management committee prepared a model trash hauler licensing regulation for our Boards of Health, which will enable local Boards to keep better track of trash and recycling collection services being provided to residents. Most of our towns took advantage of a “mini-grant” program offered by the Springfield MRF Advisory Board. Depending on their population, towns received from \$250 to \$2000 to help promote their local programs. Many of the towns took part in a District-sponsored “lottery.” 70 residents of 11 towns won prizes such as home compost bins, recycling set-out boxes, or used oil collection containers—all made from recycled plastic.

By the time you read this, the District’s new Solid Waste Master Plan will be in the hands of local Selectboards. The new plan incorporates information on “trash priorities” gathered from all Selectboards last year, and sets out the District’s long-and short-term goals for the coming 5 years. One element of the new Plan is to shift many of our expenses onto a “fee for service” basis. The District has been moving in this direction for the past few years; about 85% of our FY 2000 revenue will come from program service fees.

Arthur Cohen, Gill – Chair

Robert B. Rottenberg, Colrain – Administrator

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Regional approaches have been, for years, touted as the logical arena for wrestling with many local problems. Whether getting a bigger bang for the buck in service delivery or attracting more people under the tent of economic, development, environmental protection or issue advocacy, the merits of reaching beyond municipal boundaries are hard to reject out of hand. The Massachusetts Municipal Association sponsors workshops on the subject. Numerous state agencies create program incentives for regionalizing service delivery. Increasingly, federal and private foundation grantors look for bigger picture approaches to investing their funds in infrastructure and programming.

In spite of the advantages, however, the practical obstacles to delivering regional services in home-rule strong Massachusetts can challenge short-term financial and long-term strategic logic. The challenges of growth or its absence, can cause citizens to focus only within the municipal bounds, presenting town officials with choices between the immediate bottom line and a riskier feeling long-term investment in flexible capacity through regional partnership.

Since our transition to a voluntary council of governments in 1997, the FRCOG has been seen as a model in Massachusetts serving both the bigger bang and bigger tent objectives of regional collaboration. A central theme for the FRCOG is to provide our critical customers, town officials, with the hard products average taxpayers value while supporting big-picture regional efforts that create the context for our individual municipal members' success.

In fiscal 2000, the total \$331,120 core regional services assessment to the towns will leverage nearly \$1.2 million in planning, community health, economic development and management capacity grants which serve our members. We have developed fee for service programs in health inspection, procurement, engineering and resource development that give officials a straight-forward way of purchasing the service they need without giving up home-rule control or committing to staffing levels that are sometimes politically difficult to change. Our regional planning efforts connect local technical support people can see to a regional plan that supports balanced growth. We lead advocacy for the future of state funding of school foundation budgets, awareness of the impact of the bond cap on critical service and economic development projects in the region, Chapter 90 transportation funding and technology infrastructure development, and coordination of acquiring federal economic development dollars through the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Local officials have enormous agendas to balance to keep typical service costs down while maintaining an eye on how the environmental, economic, and political changes played out on a world scale will affect their towns future. The balance of hard products and regional strategies offered through the FRCOG give local officials an efficient and locally accountable way to represent to their constituents that they are doing both.

Jay DiPucchio, Executive Director

1998 C.O.A. Frontier Senior Center Report

As Co-Directors at the Senior Center, we would like to report that 495 people are using our center.

702 Congregate meals served

8079 Home delivered meals served

340 Seniors were serviced at our Flu Clinic this year

Twice a week we have fitness classes, and craft classes are every Wednesday, and bingo every Friday. We take trips with the Hatfield Senior Center. Brown bags are distributed from our center the second Wednesday of each month. The last Friday of each month we have a blood pressure clinic.

This Christmas we adopted two families. With help from Betty & Tom Hollingsworth, we gave them a great Christmas.

This past year we updated our building, with a new rug in the sitting room.

Our center has a director on duty 5 hours a day. The directors job is to keep daily programs going, send in weekly information to the newspapers, keeping supplies in stock, handling any problems that arise promptly; as well as helping the meal site manager when necessary. The directors also set up various clinics and speakers as well as doing paper work for grants.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Piepiora

Shirley Pielock

Co-Directors

MEMORIAL FOREST COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee met with Harry Wandeloski Jr., Forester for the Bay State Forestry Service. We discussed with him the procedures to harvest timber on the 30-acre section on the West Side of the mountain off Steam Mill Road in Deerfield. It is required by the State to provide them with a Forest Resources Management Plan and an inventory of timber in the stand and the amount to be harvested.

The 30-acre tract was donated by Mr. Abercrombie in 1932 and pine tree seedlings were planted by volunteers. Due to past ice and wind storms many tops were broken and the remaining trees were in need of releasing to provide space for the best trees to grow faster and become high quality timber.

Following the submission of the plans to State Forest Officials we received a cutting permit to harvest marked trees.

Investigations to bid were advertised, the high bid was \$7, 568.00, after expenses the Town netted \$6,424.31. The contract was awarded to Conkey and Sons to remove 45,000 board feet of pine and oak timber and 25 cords of wood.

In early November 1998 logging commenced with special track logging equipment. The steep hillside and tree density required special care to remove timber without damaging the remaining trees. Logging was completed in mid-December 1998.

The remaining 78.2 acres of Town Forest on top of east slope of the mountain extends from the bluff to Pine Nook Road. These two lots contain many low quality trees such as hemlock and other species of hardwood. The committee plans to work with a forester who will cruise the forest and to implement a selective cutting prospectus and report to us in the near future.

Respectfully,
John P. Paciorek
Leonard T. Grybko, Jr.
Mark E. Gilmore
Milton Williams, Sr.
Edward Crafts

Planning Board Annual Report

The Planning Board completed another busy year in 1998, highlighted by the successful passage of revised zoning regulations at the April, 1998 Town Meeting. In addition to the successful passage of the Zoning Bylaws, the Board had funding approved to begin the process of developing a Master Plan and to conduct a study of the town's wastewater collection systems. Both of these efforts are progressing well with summaries being prepared for presentation to the April, 1999 Town Meeting.

The Master Plan subcommittee has been busy revising and updating the town's Open Space plan. This has involved the creation and distribution of a town-wide questionnaire the results of which will be tabulated and integrated into the Open Space Plan, the first step in the Master Planning Process.

The Sewer Study Subcommittee has retained an independent engineering firm to conduct a study of the town's waste water collection systems and recommend a strategic plan to deal with possible expansion of the existing sewer systems. The committee is on schedule to present its findings to Town Meeting in April 1999.

While these studies have consumed a lot of the Board's time in 1998 and early 1999, the Board continues to conduct our regular business each month. The Board reviewed eleven Approval Not Required (ANR) plans in 1998 and considered seven Site Plan Reviews. The Town's commercial base remains strong and continues to grow as evidenced by this site plan activity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Cuddeback

REPORT OF THE DEERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

It is with pleasure that I submit this my sixth annual report of the Deerfield Police Department for the year 1998. Your Police Department has been busy conducting our usual criminal investigations and maintaining the service oriented assignments, which continues our Community Policing goals and objectives.

With the graduation of Officer David Leuschner from the recruit academy in April, the Department has returned to full staff. Without any manpower shortages, annual training requirements for all full-time officers were met by their attendance at refresher courses at Agawam. Other training in 1998 included domestic violence, hate crimes, one officer to bicycle patrol, as well as the annual CPR/First Responder and firearms training.

Regrettably, February found the Department participating in the funeral of former Deerfield Police Chief L. Paul Berube. Chief Berube climbed the ranks of their department starting in 1975 as Special Officer, promoted to full-time patrolman in March 1977 and again promoted to Chief in March 1979. He left this profession to return to contracting in 1980 and later became Physical Plant Director at Deerfield Academy. Together we worked on projects of mutual concern and he was always very helpful and involved. He will be missed by all who knew him.

The Department commenced its automated records keeping in September. Our computer network was funded by the Federal COPS MORE '95 grant. Total project cost of \$32,321 was paid for by \$24,000 in federal funds, with an \$8,000 local match which was necessary to obtain this grant. Although approved in late 1995, this project was held up until our move to Conway Street. We continue to grow with the computer age and are currently working to place laptop units in the cruisers.

Grants obtained in 1998 from the Executive Office of Public Safety include a \$6,000 award for the D.A.R.E. Program. Officer David Hastings continues to instruct our Elementary School children about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and violence. This program has been a successful partnership with our Elementary School. This grant also provides funds for tobacco compliance checks, which also commenced in 1998. A community Policing Grant of \$16,000 was also awarded to this agency. These funds totally support all of our walking beats, bicycle patrols and many crime prevention efforts, as well as specialized training that would otherwise be unavailable to us.

Sweeping new changes in the Firearms Licensing Laws have created a challenge to Police Departments throughout the Commonwealth. In Deerfield alone, we are anticipating over 700 licenses to be issued during the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000) as all current Firearms Identification Cards will expire on the birthday of the cardholder during this 12 month period. These cards have historically been valid until suspended or revoked, but will now be renewed every 4 years. The time necessary to process the documents in accordance with Massachusetts General Law is approximately 30 minutes each and the turnaround time from processing to obtaining the permit is approximately 45 days. We encourage card holders to call and arrange an appointment 45 days before your card expires as there is no longer a 90 day extension or "grace period". An article on this year's annual warrant is to create revolving account relative to firearms licensing

expenditures. This will be necessary to maintain compliance with new state rules and regulations recently set up and are recommended by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association.

Highway Safety continues to take a major part of the officers' time. Traffic accidents have remained consistent in numbers to last year with no fatalities this year. Concerns from neighborhoods have been highlighted and addressed this year relative to speed and driving behavior. In December, with the much-appreciated assistance of Administrative Assistant, David Nixon, the Department received a \$5,000 grant from the Massachusetts Governor's Highway Safety Bureau and the funds must be spent solely on traffic enforcement. The local match needed of \$1,000 was obtained from our existing Community Policing Grant funds. Officers will be working additional abbreviated shifts on this program which is focused on seat belt usage, as it has been noted that compliance has diminished in vehicular restraint use and this parallels increased personal injury in motor vehicle accidents statewide.

Good News – traffic signals will be installed at Rte. 116 & Sugarloaf this year! That's what we have heard from Massachusetts Highway Department. I have been informed that this project will commence *before* the Coolidge Bridge Rehabilitation Project and will make this popular route of travel through our town much safer.

Another welcomed piece of news concerns the appointment of Alan Foster as our animal control officers. Successful negotiations between the towns of Deerfield and Montague led to our respective towns sharing the services and expenses of a full-time dog officer. Alan has been doing a great job in responding to routine calls and enforcing our dog licensing regulations.

1998 has been a progressive year; many thanks to everyone who has played an important part in our department. To the administration, highway department and our emergency service agencies, we thank you for your assistance throughout the year. To the members of this agency, a sincere "Thank You" for your continued loyalty and dedication to your department and the community.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael J. Wozniakewicz, Chief

1998

Accidents (major)	116
Accidents (minor)	37
Alarms	238
Alcohol	5
Animals (domestic)	174
Animals (other)	11
Arrest (adult)	88
Arrest (juvenile)	7
Arson	0
Assault	24
Assistance Requested	360
Break & Entry	20
Civil Complaint	4
Code Violations	22
Court Processes	174
Death/attempts	4
Disorderly Conduct	56
Disturbance	89
Domestic Disturbance	22
Explosives	0
Fires	31
Fraud	0
Gambling	0
Lost/found property	63
Medical Aid	163
Missing Persons	14
Motor Vehicle	434
Narcotics	2
Assist other agency	99
Persons Investigated	159
Phone calls	39
Police information	159
Protective Custody	2
Recreation Vehicles	11
Robbery	2
Security Check	40
Sexual Offenses	1
Thefts	65
Towed vehicles	72
Trespass	19
Vandalism	65
Weapons	13
911 responses to hang-ups	115

REPORT OF THE DEERFIELD RECREATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Peter Kuzdeba, Chairman
Tom Antonellis
Charles Brooks
Denise Cuddeback
Charlene Galenski, Secretary
Tom Stone
Rod Warnick

As a result of the April 1998 Deerfield Town Meeting, the town moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint a committee of seven individuals to form a Recreation Committee by June 1, 1998. This action resulted because several residents voiced concerns about recreational facilities and lands currently existing in Deerfield. Selectmen Leonard Grybko, Jr. was appointed the liaison to this committee. The mission for the newly formed committee would be required to report at the 1999 Annual Town Meeting information for expanding recreational facilities and lands in the Town of Deerfield.

On July 1, 1998, the first meeting of the newly appointed Deerfield Recreation Committee was held. Several meetings have been held throughout the year to review the following:

- Current programs in baseball, soccer, softball, and basketball.
- Neighboring town programs concerning activities and budgets.
- Present recreational field space.
- Financial needs for current programs.
- Possible field site development.
- Storage needs.
- Maintenance concerns.
- Summer extension programs.
- Alternate recreational sites.

Several subcommittees worked in conjunction with the Recreation Committee to research information concerning these areas. Because of their work, the following developments have occurred:

- Updated information concerning budgets and rules for exiting programs.
- A community pamphlet explaining current recreational programs.
- A summary sheet of neighboring town recreation program data.
- Proposed new summer recreation program.
- Established contact with a private family and Old and South Deerfield Water Districts about obtaining field use.
- Established contact with Eaglebrook School, Deerfield Academy, and Deerfield Elementary about expanding current facility use.

- Town Hall preliminary site work completed for a community recreational area.
- Dialog with the Lions Club about financial assistance.
- Met with Tri-Town Beach Commission about field and recreational use expansion.
- Conducted an engineering study at Tri-Town Beach facility.
- Created a land inventory for possible site development.
- Restored space in the Butler Building for recreational supplies.
- Explored and pursued grant opportunities.
- Recommended questions for the Deerfield Master Open Space Survey.
- Completed boundary and topographic survey of Town Hall part site.
- Completed general development plan alternatives for Town Hall park site.

The Recreation Committee would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Deerfield town officials/staff, Conway School of Design, the Deerfield Highway Department, the Deerfield Police Department, especially Chief Wozniakewicz, for their invested interest in the committee's pursuit. The Deerfield Lions Club has expressed an interest in donating money for field development once a field is ready for such work. Harold Wisley, the liaison for the Lions Club, met with committee members to discuss this organization's sincere interest. The Lions Club's enthusiasm for this project shows the community backing which seems to exist for promoting recreation in Deerfield.

Available space is a concern the committee has tried to address throughout the year. Currently many programs use the Deerfield Elementary School, Sugarloaf Mountain field, Channing Bete fields, Eaglebrook School fields, PVMA field, and town hall field for activities. We thank these groups for assisting the community in offering a space for these valuable programs. Without their continued assistance, recreation for the town residents would be minimal.

Knowing that space is a concern, the Recreation Committee has contacted, the University of Massachusetts and its land on River Road, the Tri-Town Beach Commission, the Old and South Deerfield Water Districts, and private families about possibly acquiring additional space for the coming year. The Tri-Town Beach Commission paid for an engineering study to be completed on the south field area at the Tri-Town Beach facility. We thank the Tri-Town Beach Commission for that support. Support for additional land use from these groups was not possible at this time. The committee has exhausted its efforts to successfully obtain existing lands in town. As a result, we are recommending a land study be conducted to further investigate possible land opportunities for recreation in Deerfield. Perhaps landowners would be willing to donate, convert, or sell lands for future field and recreational use. The mission of expanding recreation in Deerfield will need to solve the issue of field space.

Due to the Deerfield Recreation Committee's work this year, the committee remains active in pursuing three articles for the town's consideration:

- Creation of a Recreation and Parks Department.
- Municipal Town Hall community park and multi-purpose recreational area development.

-
- Land study for the development of future sites coordinated with the Master Plan.

The Deerfield Recreation Committee ambitiously continues to investigate avenues for developing a strong recreation program for Deerfield. Due to limited land resources and the current arrangement in which there is not centralized control concerning recreation, the committee appeals to the residents to have a future vision addressing these recreational challenges. Our intent is to look at the needs of youth, adults, and senior residents. Our goal is to provide a well-rounded program for Deerfield's residents to utilize. We thank the town of Deerfield for their continued support in this worthy endeavor.

ANNUAL REPORT BOARD OF SELECTMEN

It has been a typically busy year for the Board of Selectmen. Not only has the Board been engaged in the routine Town matters, but it has also overseen several major projects.

Preserving open space was a major concern for the Selectmen. Working with the Deerfield Land Trust, the Board approved funding to put many acres of farmland into Agricultural Preservation Restriction. This land is located to the east of the railway in South Deerfield. The Selectmen have also started investigating several old roads throughout Town to ascertain their legal status, layout, and condition. Some of these old roads are no longer in service and should be closed in an appropriate manner, thus relieving development pressures and conserving natural areas. Finally, the Selectmen worked with the newly formed Recreation Study Committee to develop playing fields for Deerfield's youth. This Committee has shown a lot of initiative and dedication, and we are confident that new recreational areas will be developed soon.

The Selectmen found themselves preserving open spaces in another way when a large energy company proposed locating an energy facility on agricultural land in South Deerfield. By maintaining firm opposition to the project, yet exhibiting a willingness to work out reasonable alternatives, the Board was able to encourage the company to seek a location outside of Town. The Selectmen were aided by the capable and determined support of area residents who had no wish to see such a facility to be located in their neighborhood.

After many years of careful preparation and financial planning, the Town commenced capping the Landfill. Working with the Department of Environmental Protection, our engineers, and contractors, the Town successfully phased in full transfer station operations, enhanced recycling efforts, and covered the old trash area with an impervious high density polyethylene membrane. Topsoil was imported to cover the protective layer, and the cap will be permanently maintained as a green area. The Town is continuing to work out finishing touches to this major project, including replanting trees as a protective and visual buffer on the west side.

The Selectmen are currently evaluating the transfer station operations. Of interest are how well does the station serve the needs of residents, what can we do to increase recycling rates, and how can we make recycling more cost-effective through such sources as the Massachusetts Recycling Initiative Program. One program in which we participated was the Municipal Recycling Facility Advisory Board's Education Mini-Grant. We received funding in 1999 and were able to provide 500 recycling bins free of cost to residents.

The Selectmen continued to monitor sewer use by various industries in South Deerfield. Of particular concern were some of the production discharges that placed pressures on the wastewater plant and its capacity to treat wastewater effectively. Through a process of long deliberations, negotiations, and sometimes punitive measures, the Selectmen were able to control the volume and quality of wastewater entering the plant. The Board, however, recognizes the need to start capital improvements to the system in order to meet the needs of residents and industries. Hence, a new aeration system is being designed, and

when it is installed, we expect that it will be able to treat solids more effectively while using less energy than the current system. The Selectmen have also recognized the efforts of the newly created Sewer Study Subcommittee to address the long-term needs of the Town for sewage disposal. We facilitated their bidding process to hire engineers, and we await their recommendations.

The Selectmen continue to work on road safety issues. We have been in regular contact with the Massachusetts Highway Department to keep on track the much-needed and often-delayed traffic signals at the end of the Sugarloaf Street. Both Sen. Stanley Rosenberg and Rep. Stephen Kulik who have take personal interest in seeing this project completed have assisted us. We have also negotiated an agreement with a railroad to raise a low bridge over River Road. This project, once completed, should relieve River Road south of the rail yard of much truck traffic.

Next year, the Selectmen look forward to initiating many more projects to benefit townspeople and visitors. We hope that our labors have resulted in serving the Town and protecting its resources.

Report of the Tax Collector

July 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998

Real Estate, District and Personal Property tax bills for Fiscal Year 1998 were mailed on December 11, 1997. The following combined receipts are for informational purposes.

Real Estate	\$ 4,545,320.24
Personal Property	129,393.41
Motor Vehicle Excise	509,554.62
Farm Animal and Machinery	2,538.68
Sewer	430,138.25
Interest and Fees	<u>48,366.46</u>
	\$ 5,665,311.66

It is nice to be able to report we were again able to avoid borrowing in anticipation of revenue, thanks to taxpayers timely payment of taxes.

I remind all taxpayers experiencing difficult times to contact this office and make arrangements for payments to avoid having your taxes forwarded to the Deputy Tax Collector for action and/or other legal action to protect the Town's interest.

A reminder all unpaid delinquent Motor Vehicle Excise bills have been submitted to the Deputy Tax Collector and if not resolved licenses and registrations will be marked at the Registry of Motor Vehicles for non-renewal. Delinquent Real Estate, District and Personal Property Taxes for Fiscal Year 1998 have been submitted to the Deputy Tax Collector and if not resolved it may become necessary to lien the property at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds.

Thanks to all property owners for notifying the Assessors of address and/or ownership changes.

Respectfully Submitted,

William H. Leno
Tax Collector

Tilton Library Annual Report 1998

It has been another busy, exciting year at the Tilton Library. Many changes took place, and looking back on them, they have all been positive.

On February 2, 1998 we officially began circulating items using the Winnebago brand library software. This is user friendly software that uses Windows 95 for an operating system. We maintain our network affiliation for the purpose of inter-library loan, but circulate items using our own system. We had to issue new cards with barcodes for each patron. We are continually striving to barcode our collection of materials and currently have approximately 14,000 items converted to the computer system. We have maintained a card catalog even though most items can be found on the computer catalog.

As of June 1, 1998, the library offered free public Internet access. Our records show that 164 users logged on between June 1, 1998 and December 31, 1998. This service is available to patrons whenever the library is open. Crocker Communications provides the Internet connection free of charge to public libraries.

We also saw some staff changes in the past year. Library Assistant Patricia Wood left in August. We welcomed Ann Kurt who filled her position. In November, Library Assistant Susan King also left. Melanie Moodley filled this vacancy. While we miss both Patricia and Susan, Ann and Melanie fit in at the library very well.

In October, the Board of Trustees held elections and welcomed a new slate of officers. Daniel Carmody is the Chairperson; Elizabeth Schmitt is the Vice-Chairperson; Margaret Kostiuk is the Secretary and Mary Ann Barnes is the Treasurer.

The Friends of Tilton Library have progressed very nicely in the past year. They have had much success using Beanie Babies that were donated by the Old Deerfield Country Store as raffle prizes. They raised enough money to buy the library a new computer for Internet access. This was much needed, as the older computer was slow, and made patrons wait. The new computer has improved our connection speed incredibly. The Friends group has been complimentary to the efforts of the Trustees by sharing the common goal of supporting the library.

Our library circulation was up by nearly 2,000 items last year, which brought that figure up to 38,992 items. We also offered 32 children's programs. The attendance at these programs was 676 people. Volunteers offered a tremendous 575 hours of assistance. While all of these numbers are critical to gauging the value of the library in our community, it is important to realize that we are offering more services, such as Internet access which are not included in the circulation statistics.

The Tilton Library Staff, Mary, Irene, Lauri, Ann, Melanie and I have had a busy and exciting year. We would like to thank our patrons for their patience with our new system. We also appreciate all of those people, too many to name, who make our jobs more pleasant.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine A. Piekarski, Director

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 1998**

CASH:

General	\$ 3,916,200.63
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Accounts Receivable:

Forest Products Tax	5.70
Real Estate Taxes	416,567.33
Personal Property Tax	36,999.83
Chpt 61 A Rollback Taxes	7,391.30
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	74,880.28
Farm Excise Taxes	6,413.21
Sewer Use Fees	39,049.48

Tax Titles:

Town	\$22,822.68	
Fire District	1,326.60	
Water District	881.92	25,031.20

Tax Possessions	299.95
John E. Cain A/R	5,000.00
State Aid to Highway	470,808.84

Total Assets	\$ 4,998,647.75
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TOWN OF DEERFIELD BALANCE SHEET

Page 2

Liabilities:

Tax Title Redemptions Due District	\$	1,290.60
Payroll Withholdings		17,696.59

Deferred Revenues:

Property Taxes	17,325.42
Forest Products	5.70
Motor Vehicle Excise	74,880.28
Farm Animal Excise	6,413.21
Tax Title/Possessions	25,331.15
Sewer Use	39,049.48
State Aid Highway	470,808.84
Tailings	5,915.10
Dewater Article	(27,345.81)
Sale of Cemetery Lots	8,535.00

Trust Funds:

War Bonds	\$	2,866.50
Billings Book		539.55
Land Preservation		5,345.00
Dickinson Trust		542.53
Cemetery Fund		2,777.05
Mary Topp Cemetery		4,315.68
Frank Wells Fund		8,190.58
Ed Zabriski Fund		4.70
		24,581.59

School, State, & Federal Grants:	44,220.59
Town Hall/Police Station Project	(23,275.30)

Other State Grants

Police Drug Forfeiture	12,550.73
State Aid Library	23,854.09
Highway Grants	(76,523.39)
Arts Lottery	5,156.25
D.A.R.E. Grant	4,787.81
Community Policing	8,075.82
Veterans Recovery	1,211.50

Page #2 Total Liabilities: \$ 664,545.51

TOWN OF DEERFIELD BALANCE SHEET

Page # 3

Liabilities Continued:

Revolving Funding

Trash Bag Receipts	\$ 32,110.00
Special Education	3,409.82
School Lunch	8,669.32
Dog Fund	1,030.14
After School Fund	12,269.45
Insurance Claims	2,402.75
Off-Duty Police	3,849.11
Special Activities Fund	716.57
School Bldg Use	1,281.54
Dog Licenses	3,498.38
YCC Traffic Detail	(3,080.03)
Writing Camp School	74.43
Conservation Ad Fund	17.25
RMV Marking Fees	3,100.00
J. Cain Co. A/R deferred Revenue	5,000.00

Reserve Over/Under Est. C/s	5,428.00
Yankee Candle Gift	51.50
Contribution New School	85,480.00
Sale of Town Office Bldg	100,011.00
Franchise Fees	840.00

Overlays:

1970-1991	\$ 57,366.51	
1992	1,577.85	
1993	41,235.36	
1994	45,118.57	
1995	55,795.95	
1996	178,160.27	
1997	48,856.49	
1998	15,522.04	443,633.04

Page # 3 Total Liabilities \$ 709,792.27

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BALANCE SHEET**

PAGE # 4

Liabilities Continued:

Encumbrances – Sewer Fund	\$ 258,264.37
Encumbrances – General Fund	669,066.75
Reserve Payment of Debt – New School	584,491.50
Sewer Surplus Reserve	132,533.05
Surplus Revenue	1,979,954.30
Page # 4 Total Liabilities	\$ 3,624,309.97

Total Liabilities:	Page # 2	\$ 664,545.51
	Page # 3	709,792.27
	Page # 4	<u>3,624,309.97</u>

\$ 4,998,647.75

Net Funded Debt	\$ 5,445,000.00
Total Net Funded Debt	5,445,000.00
New School Debt	\$ 5,445,000.00
TOTAL DEBT	5,445,000.00

TOWN OF DEERFIELD

ENCUMBERED FUNDS FISCAL YEAR 1998

Selectmen's Expense Enc.	#015-122-098	\$ 38,000.00
Personnel Review	015-122-600	4,400.00
Unknown Property Enc.	015-140-098	3,500.00
Triennial Recert.	015-141-096	17,879.95
Triennial Recert.	015-141-097	29,000.00
Triennial Recert.	015-141-098	25,000.00
Biannual Recert.	015-142-094	25,000.00
Legal Consultant Enc.	015-151-099	26,717.41
Sale Town Prop.	015-152-094	9,222.00
Architect Town Bld.	015-153-094	17,500.00
Architect Town Bld.	015-153-095	11,043.10
Handicap Access Tilton	015-153-400	7,049.99
Tax Taking Enc.	015-158-098	3,600.00
Binding Records	015-160-098	2,131.00
Elections & Registrations	015-162-098	1,823.59
Street Listing	015-164-098	3,672.06
By-law Maint. Enc.	015-172-098	2,428.96
Office Machine Maint.	015-182-098	1,000.00
Town Hall Needs	015-192-093	12,177.49
Workmens' Comp. Enc.	015-195-098	20,782.22
Contracted Services	015-192-097	16,763.51
Town Office Maint.	015-192-098	2,000.00
Police Sal. Enc.	015-210-098	6,765.52
Police Academy Training	015-210-401	1,159.46
Sick Leave Enc.	015-212-098	48,072.27
Police Exp. Enc.	015-219-098	2,515.13
Elem. School Enc.	015-300-098	120,256.54
New Elem. School Const.	015-312-093	12,242.67
Dickinson School Enc.	015-313-093	1,819.09
Buy Rural Property	015-316-093	11,144.44
Documents T. Office Bldg.	015-317-400	4,000.00
General Highway Enc.	015-422-098	44,617.30
Brook Cleaning	015-425-098	13,048.00
Landfill Operations	015-433-097	16,455.25
Landfill Operations	015-433-098	25,000.00
Clear Rural Property	015-315-093	3,184.15
Sewer Line Maint.	015-449-098	15,835.19
Library Move Books	015-612-095	1,024.28
Masonry Tilton	015-614-400	7,000.00

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
ENCUMBERED FUNDS FISCAL YEAR 1998**

Tilton Renovation	#015-615-400	\$ 10,281.00
ADA – Regulations	015-615-401	(6,614.00)
Leary – Parking	015-642-400	595.38
Interest Maturing Debt.	015-715-098	19,500.00
Unemployment Ins.	015-914-098	4,786.38
Group Ins. Enc.	015-914-098	<u>25,687.42</u>
	Total	\$ 669,066.75

Report of the Town Clerk January 1998 – December 1998

Our office recorded forty-five Births, twenty-eight Marriages and forty-four Deaths. We continue to have a substantial number of requests for vital records, searches and certifications.

This is the seventh year of census (street listing) by mail. We appreciate the cooperation and assistance of the Private schools, condo associations, postal authorities and the general public. We also made a large number of phone calls and second and third mailings.

We also worked aggressively to maintain an in-house registered voters list, for comparison with the Central Voter System in the Secretary of State's Office as required by the Federal Motor-Voter Law.

We find the issuing of Dog Licenses, Fish and Game Licenses and Stamps are on the increase and become more involved each year with the new firearms laws.

April 27 and 28, 1998 was the Annual Town Meeting and May 4, 1998 was the Annual Town Election. We also held a State Primary September 15, 1998 and a State Election November 3, 1998. Special thanks to all the election workers.

I would like to extend my personal thanks; as well as the thanks of the community; to Frances Stokarski for her 21 years plus of dedicated service. We all wish her and John an enjoyable, healthy and happy retirement.

Respectfully Submitted,

William H. Leno
Town Clerk

**Receipts of the Town Clerk
January 1998 – December 1998**

Dog Licenses

Town System:

Male	153	@	\$ 10.00	\$ 1,530.00
Female	51	@	10.00	510.00
Spayed Female	456	@	5.00	2,280.00
Neutered Male	349	@	5.00	1,745.00
Kennels	8	@	30.00	240.00
	2	@	40.00	80.00
Fines	104	@	10.00	<u>1,040.00</u>

\$ 7,425.00

Less Fees 764.25

Paid to Town of Deerfield \$ 6,660.75

**Sporting Licenses
January 1998 – December 1998**

Licenses Sold	\$12,146.10
Less Fees	<u>521.60</u>

Net Sent to Commonwealth	\$11,624.50
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Report of the Town Treasurer

Fiscal Year July 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998

It is a continued pleasure to report the Town was in the fortunate position of not having to borrow in anticipation of revenue (the Fourteenth Year). I gratefully appreciate timely payments of tax bills and in many cases early payments of second installments. The efforts of the Deputy Tax Collector in collecting delinquents also aid us in maintaining our no borrowing position.

Respectfully Submitted,

William H. Leno, Treasurer

Fiscal Year 1998

Balance July 1, 1997	\$ 713,437.71
Interest F.Y. 1998	\$ 46,339.00
Balance June 30, 1998	\$ 759,776.71

Municipal Building Fund

Balance July 1, 1997	\$ 204,793.04
Interest F.Y. 1998	\$ 11,507.29
Balance June 30, 1998	\$ 216,300.33

Emergency Vehicle Replacement Fund

Balance July 1, 1997	\$ 7,306.28
Interest F.Y. 1998	\$ 686.75
Income Appropriated F.Y. 1997	\$ 5,000.00
Income Appropriated F.Y. 1998	\$ 5,000.00
Balance June 30, 1998	\$ 17,993.03

Report of the Town Treasurer

Receipts and Payments

Fiscal Year 1998

Receipts per Month

\$ 269,253.41
 258,057.73
 913,046.38
 419,301.77
 372,808.96
 1,973,629.80
 1,487,958.07
 802,988.38
 679,836.23
 1,780,818.47
 659,504.95
798,035.99
 \$10,415,240.14

Expenditures per Month

\$ 643,234.98
 623,799.57
 448,408.77
 851,910.40
 997,840.65
 884,297.32
 459,658.99
 970,151.10
 523,478.49
 705,751.65
 556,314.27
2,163,184.35
 \$ 9,828,030.54

Balance June 30, 1997

\$ 3,399,138.67

Receipts F.Y. 1998

10,415,240.14

Expenditures F.Y. 1998

9,828,030.54

Year End Balance June 30, 1998

\$ 3,986,348.27

Allocation of Cash by Bank Accounts

Fiscal Year 1998

Fleet Bank	\$ 6,813.46
State Street Bank	439,469.03
Bank Boston	79,306.72
Bank Boston	8,815.35
Conway Forest Memorial	4,913.04
Fleet Bank	6,700.71
State Street Bank	190,204.77
Greenfield Co-Op Bank	2,716,275.38
Greenfield Savings Bank	308,873.79
Greenfield Savings Bank	211,909.91
Greenfield Savings Bank	<u>13,066.11</u>
	\$3,986,348.27

REPORT OF THE TREE WARDEN AND MOTH SUPERINTENDENT

During 1998 a total of 28 new trees were planted where trees were removed or on new house lots. The varieties planted were Ash, Crimson King Maple, Sugar Maples, Armstrong Maple, Pin Oaks, Linden and Pear. When these trees are planted we leave a berm around the trees so that it can be well watered. Please do not remove this for a couple of years until the trees are well started. Even though the trees look good, they still need to be watered a couple times per week. Do not hit any tree with a lawn mower or weed whacker. It's best to put a few inches of bark mulch around the tree in about a two-foot circle. If you wish to fertilize the tree use a 10-10-10 fertilizer. Put it in the ground by using a crowbar to make a number of holes around the tree. The amount to use on a tree is two pounds per caliper inch. If you have tree problems, please feel free to call me at my home number; 773-8301.

Stumps were removed and these areas were loamed and seeded. A lot of tree trimming is done each year all around town where dead wood is a problem. Anytime when I have extra money in my budget this is where it goes. There is always a need to trim trees.

Arbor Day was observed in the Grammar School and seedlings were given to students to plant.

This past year weather played a big part in the health of trees. May was very wet with too much rain. When it finally stopped, it turned very dry. Many trees have been stressed and will have to be watched and should be given water—even trees that are several years old. We also had more Dutch Elm Disease because of the dry weather. Except for the dry weather, we didn't have any other major problems or storm damage so far.

As in the past, I have attended meetings and seminars to keep informed of the latest solutions to the problems of caring for our trees. I also keep abreast of tree problems with information sent from the University of Massachusetts during the growing season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Deerfield, the Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Harold Eaton, Jr., Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and the University of Massachusetts for their cooperation during the past year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Milton H. Williams,
Tree Warden/Moth Superintendent

**Tri-Town Beach
20 Old State Road
Whately, MA 01093**

REPORT OF THE TRI-TOWN BEACH DISTRICT 1998

Commissioners:

William Skroski, Chairman of Tri-Town Beach District
Edith Ostrowski, Chairman of Deerfield Swim Recreation Committee
Betty Orloski-Perfido, Secretary of Tri-Town Beach
Charlene Galenski, Secretary of Deerfield Swim Recreation Committee
Sharyn Paciorek
Suzanne Cycz

The Tri-Town Beach District continues to provide a safe, clean, and well-organized recreational facility for the residents of Deerfield and Whately. The commissioners, in conjunction with the towns, take pride in maintaining an area in which residents may relax and enjoy themselves.

Throughout the season, several improvements and programs were completed to enhance the Tri-Town Beach area.

- Clearing the southeast corner of overgrown shrubs.
- Weekly water testing resulted in meeting recommended state guidelines.
- Mowing of the north and south field areas throughout the summer.
- Beach hours extended from 9:00 A.M. – 8:00 P. M. daily.
- Six week swimming program.
- Allowances for community involvement opportunities.
- Financed engineering study for future playing field plans
- Celebrated District's Thirtieth Anniversary Event.

The Tri-Town Beach District hopes to continue expanding its current parking area. In addition, developing a picnic and playground area are future visions for the beach area. The possibility of developing playing fields south of the lake was discussed with the newly formed Deerfield Recreation Committee. The Tri-Town Beach District financed an engineering study to begin the process. Discussions are ongoing between the two committees.

This past year the District welcomed two new commissioners, Suzanne Cycz from Whately and Charlene Galenski from Deerfield.

The commissioners would like to thank the Tri-Town Beach lifeguards, gatekeepers, and maintenance personnel for providing a safe and clean facility for all. The commitment to their work was commendable. Safety was high priority throughout the season due to the "drop" in the water level because of the unusually dry summer. The personnel took precautions when low water depth required closing certain sections of the swimming area.

In addition, a summer swimming program instructed 211 children throughout sessions one and two. The swimming lessons were qualitative, and the commissioners thank the excellent work done by the swimming instructors during the 1998 season. Children from Deerfield, Whately, and Sunderland participate in these lessons. We thank Chief Harold Swift of the Whately Police Department and Chief Henry J. Klein of the Sunderland Police Department for providing D.A.R.E. money to the Town of Deerfield to help finance the swimming program. Because of D.A.R.E.'s generous donations, the children of Whately were able to attend swimming lessons at no cost during both sessions. Sunderland children, who participated in one session of lessons, also received free instruction due to D.A.R.E. funding. The Massachusetts State Police, the police departments of Deerfield and Whately, and the highway departments in both towns willingly assisted in helping maintain a safe, secure area. Their assistance was truly appreciated by the commissioners.

Several local groups utilized Tri-Town Beach this year. Both the Deerfield and Whately Elementary Schools participated in a field day experience at the lake. All who attended had a most rewarding day. The Deerfield Boy Scouts and the State Police Dive Teams were allowed to practice certain tasks at the Beach. The commissioners were pleased to be able to accommodate these groups as positive community experiences.

The highlight of the summer season was the Tri-Town Beach's Thirtieth Year Celebration, held on August 22, 1998. Refreshments were provided for all residents in attendance from Whately and Deerfield. The commissioners wish to thank Whately Selectmen Charles Olanyk for providing the District with banners courtesy of Pepsi Cola. Approximately 200 people came to celebrate this memorable and special occasion. Because of the success of this event, the commissioners are hoping to offer a summer celebration each year.

The Tri-Town Beach District appreciates the wonderful support from the towns. The commissioners will continue to maintain a facility for the towns of Whately and Deerfield, which accommodates its residents with an exceptional recreation area in which a great sense of pride can be realized.

CENTRAL FRANKLIN COUNTY DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

Dear Veterans' and Citizens;

We have much to be grateful for this year. The Massachusetts legislature has been very generous to veterans. The Massachusetts Veterans Agents Association has been working with our State Legislatures since last Memorial Day on many veterans' bills and I have listed below many of these accomplishments.

- A. Real Estate Tax Exemptions Clause 22: \$250.00 per year.
- B. Tax Free Military Pensions: Ended Massachusetts being the only State to tax military pensions.
- C. Retirement Buy Back: For government employees can buy up to 4 years toward retirement for time spent in military service.
- D. Annuities: Established an annual annuity of \$1,500.00 to fathers and mothers of a serviceperson killed in action or who died of injuries or disease sustained in combat and to all 100% service-connected disabled.
- E. American Flags: Cities and Towns will be reimbursed 75% of the cost of the American flags used to decorate veterans' graves each Memorial Day.
- F. Soldier's Homes: Budgets were substantially increased. Holyoke was allowed to establish an Alzheimer's unit and a prescription mail program and Chelsea was allowed to reopen a new ward.

Many of the items I have listed above have not been increased in almost 40 years and some are new benefits. As Veterans' Day approaches let us take a few minutes out of our lives and let us pray for those who have gone before us, and let us continue to fight for those who are still alive. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Selectboard, for the Town of Whately, for joining the C.F.C. Veterans District and I look forward to serving those veterans' in their town.

We are still formulating plans with the Farren Care Center and the Northampton VA Medical Center to combine services for veterans and their families to receive clinical care at the Community Health Center. I hope everything is in place by Veterans' Day.

If we can be of service, please visit or call my office at 413-863-3205.

Sincerely,

Leo J. Parent, Jr.
Director Veterans' Services

VITAL STATISTICS

MARRIAGES 1998

BY WHOM MARRIED

JANUARY

3	Jeremy Wolfram Melissa Glazier	Holly Reed Clergy
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FEBRUARY

20	Thomas Lentilhon Carla Niedbala	Rose O'Hagan Justice of the Peace
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MARCH

15	Niels Agger-Gupta Dorothy Eastman	Rev. Pag Stearn Clergy
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APRIL

18	David Bassingthwaite Barbara Hassay	Rev. Hubert Fleshor Clergyman
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18	Daniel Telega Priscilla Monahan	Helen Westergard Justice of the Peace
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MAY

2	Arthur Rubeck Leeanne Taylor	Rev. Julius Jutt Priest
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2	Christopher Lamere Shannon Chamberlin	Sarah Shafstall Clergy
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10	John Johnson III Leigh Hammond	Rev. Irving Mullette Minister of the Gospel
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16	James Goodrich Lisa Phillips	Rev. Phillipe Roux Priest
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JUNE

14	Costas Alimonos Angela Chumbley	Rev. Harry Volupas Priest
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20	Alan Studlien Heather Odman	Rev. Mark Nevius Minister of the Gospel
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MARRIAGES (CON'T)BY WHOM MARRIED

JUNE

20	Gregory Barranco Allison Porter	Rev. George Anastos Minister
20	Donald Morin Cynthia Bush	Brian Bush Solemnizer

JULY

2	Robert Liebenow Susan Cass	Dennis Helmus Justice of the Peace
4	Frederick Goetz Rebecca Arons	Rev. Warren Sazama Priest
4	Brian McAllorum Jennifer Arvidson	Rev. Julius Jutt Priest

AUGUST

15	Kevin Wesoloski Tammy Balestracci	Rev. George Harrison Priest
15	Jeffrey Connor Erika Argueta	Rev. George Anastos Minister
22	Andrew Langlois Stephanie Zadroga	Leonard Pelletier Priest

SEPTEMBER

5	Joshua Ryan Kailen Bent	Rev. Patricia Tummino Clergy
5	Philip Lombardo, Jr. Amanda Myers	Rev. George Anastos Minister
12	Richard Kostanski Amy-jo Martin	June Malenfant Justice of the Peace
18	David St. Peters Sherrene Nickerson	John Campbell-Nelson Minister of the Gospel

MARRIAGES (CON'T)**BY WHOM MARRIED****SEPTEMBER**

19

Andrew Melnik
Gretchen IslesJohn Kopinski
Minister of the Gospel**OCTOBER**

10

Stephen C. Jenks
Shelley M. HallRev. David A. Neil
Clergy

11

Steven F. Ricardi
Tina M. OlanykJune B. Malenfant
Justice of the Peace**DECEMBER**

5

David Zamojski
Melanie Ames

Rev. Andrea Anastos

12

John Crand
Susan SullivanFr. George Farland
Priest

BIRTHS 1998

JANUARY

12 Cameron Thomas Olanyk

PARENTS

Todd & Michelle
Olanyk

FEBRUARY

8 Maia Taylor

John & Mercedes
Taylor

19 Walter Timothy Piel

Walter & Deborah
Piel

MARCH

5 Amanda Margaret
Deskavich

Thomas & Cathy
Deskavich

24 Gus Anders Cantieni

David & Ann
Cantieni

APRIL

7 Tyler Jacob Merriott

Thomas & Jennifer
Merriott

9 Jayme Jarvis Phillips

Kim & Katarina
Phillips

21 Alexander Ryan Hamer

William & Ann
Hamer

21 Kayla Kathleen Hamer

William & Ann
Hamer

23 Peter James Sandberg

David & Joni
Sandberg

29 Anthony Clerk Pandolfi

Orlando & Shannon
Pandolfi

MAY

4 Dylan Jay Husted

Ronald & Doris
Husted

8 Adam Lawrence Coffin

Peter & Teresa
Coffin

BIRTHS (CON'T)**PARENTS****MAY**

31	Rowan Marie Smiaroski	Paul & Kelley Smiaroski
31	Brandon James Boudah	Denis & Sandra Boudah

JUNE

9	Noah Harold Barnes	Bryan & Jill Barnes
14	Todger Harlow Anderson Davis	William & Carey Davis
18	Emily Elizabeth Woodward	Gordon & Karen Woodward
20	Grace Elizabeth Murray	Stephen & Sarah Murray
22	James Joseph Miller	James Jr. & Sharon Miller
24	Megan Elizabeth Gardner	Gregory & Caryn Gardner
30	Seth Catlin Gewanter	Brett & Kristin Gewanter
30	Kade Benjamin Gewanter	Brett & Kristin Gewanter
30	Adam Jalal Eaton	Robert & Touria Eaton

JULY

11	Brigit Anne Ferry	James & Margaret
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BIRTHS (CON'T)**JULY**

16	Lilly Victoria Schumann	Eric & Jennifer Schumann
18	Jillian Nicole Duca	Steven & Jacqueline Duca

AUGUST

7	Annie Christine Phillips	David & Karen Phillips
13	Stephen Christopher Goodrich	James & Lisa Goodrich
21	Jeremy John Durant	John & Sherri-lee Durant
27	Aidan Mathew Waldron	William & Tina Waldron

SEPTEMBER

3	Annette Rose Baker	Daniel & Kim Baker, Sr.
7	Sophie Klein Savage	Jay & Lisa Savage
10	Benjamin Brooke Fenwick Lowe	Samuel & Natasha Lowe
18	Zachary Alexander Matuson	Ronald & Roberta Matuson
18	Patrick O'Malley Thompson	Kevin & Ann Thompson
19	Miranda Anne Wissman	Derrick & Monica Wissman

BIRTHS (CON'T)**OCTOBER**

4	Olivia Kevyn Bean Warren	Kevin Warren Bernadette Bean
12	Duncan Street Malone	Craig Malone Janet Street

NOVEMBER

16	Morgan Lyn Fuller	Bryon & April Fuller
19	Luca Valentin Kilian	Martin & Kerstin Kilian
26	Shelby Grace Scarborough	Kevin & Margaret Scarborough

DECEMBER

5	Chloe Alexia Peyromaure de Bord	Christophe & Elizabeth Peyromaure de Bord
8	Celia Dewolfe Speth	Robert Speth, Jr. Amy Hamilton
18	Daniel Thomas Bronke	Jeffrey & Karina Bronke

DEATHS 1998

PARENTS

JANUARY

12	Edwin Bernard Nartowicz Age 70	Roman Nartowicz Lena Wojcik
23	Antonina Pomasko Age 73	Joseph Swirski Bohomila Smolivski
23	William Douglas Bysiewski Age 54	Stella Bysiewski

FEBRUARY

9	Helen Gertrude Pydych Age 74	Robert McGrath Bertha Perry
19	Charles S. Stahelek Age 84	John Stahelek Mary Korowski
20	Eleanor Wiernasz Age 68	Joseph Wisnieski Sophie Zdanowicz
27	Genevieve Mary Duda Age 73	Stephen Koziski Mae Goodnough

MARCH

1	Stanley J. Gochinski Age 80	Henry Gochinski Anna Grosek
9	Florence St. Peter Age 82	Levi & Ethel Lee
11	Virginia Ducharme Age 62	Nelson St. Peter Florence Lee
16	Gary L. Bachand Age 48	Walter Bachand Charlotte Lentner

APRIL

1	Francis C. Sobieski, Sr. Age 87	Konstanty Sobieski Teophia Parda
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DEATHS (CON'T)

APRIL

18	Ann M. Thompson Age 84	Mike Wabeck Tessie Donelo
19	Marion Lemay Age 77	Joseph A. Grybko Catherine A. Mroczek
21	Phyllis Gladys Sanicki Age 73	Peter Noga Anielia Podlesianski
21	Blanche Morrissey Age 93	Michael Morrissey Hannah Hanarahan

MAY

2	Edward Zdanowicz Age 62	Edward Zdanowicz Helen Goralski
10	Edward Jablonski, Sr. Age 78	John Jablonski Stella Jackoski
20	Joseph Fistes Age 84	John Fistes Susan Baker
30	Julian C. Smith Age 88	Julian C. Smith Christine Atwood

JUNE

2	Marion O'Brien Age 85	Charles Bamford Emma Erb
11	Edward A. Drozdal Age 87	Micheal Drozdal Kathryn Plaza
29	Alison Kanski Age 79	Allen Joseph Janes Susan E. McDermott

JULY

15	Alice Foley Age 88	Stanley Borowski Katarzyna Turhala
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DEATHS (CON'T)

JULY

15 Maurice R. Vaughn
 Age 73

John Vaughn
Mabel Dewey

AUGUST

3 Joy C. Smith
 Age 70

Raymond J. Cosseboom
Margaret Wall

13 Robert David Scoville
 Age 66

Walter Scoville
Viola Dziubak

29 Edith Kozikowski
 Age 83

Michael Finkowski
Olympia Lopata

30 Pia Fitzgerald
 Age 85

Enrico Pomponio
Filomena Ferreri

SEPTEMBER

12 Mary D. Warchol
 Age 82

Jan Walusiak
Aniela Ptak

18 Olga Desmond
 Age 88

John Stub
Elsa Aurora Anderson

28 Gladys C. Korzan
 Age 90

Alexander Koldis
Rose Lipka

30 Phyllis Butynski
 Age 67

Henry Gignac
Helen Koscinski

OCTOBER

3 Michael Rura
 Age 67

Mijkowi Rura
Helen Tarapata

3 Richard Elsworth Thornton, III
 Age 23

Richard Thornton, Jr.
Dianna Staelens

13 Emilie Baranowski
 Age 84

Vincent Rutkowski
Anna (Unknown)

DEATHS (CON'T)

OCTOBER

16 Evelyn Ruth Morrell
Age 73

20 William Leon Wolfram
Age 65

26 Bessie Stettbacher
Age 91

NOVEMBER

27 Ethel LaPlante
Age 92

DECEMBER

11 Leslie Woodwell Noyes
Age 78

12 Henry Boron
Age 74

19 Nancy Burke
Age 62

21 Paul Lemay
Age 73

PARENTS

Henry Nelson
Ethelyn Amidon

Harold Wolfram
Helen Germain

Frederick Woodruff
Fanny Braeman

Rutus Saltzman
Eva Crowell

Leslie Noyes, Sr.
Lillian Jones

Henry Boron
Kazmiera Maskowicz

Ralph Morrissey
Helen Hmielski

Israel Lemay
Aurore Dupius

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRED W. WELLS TRUSTEES

Funds available for the Fiscal Year 1998/1999 were \$171,277.87 (plus \$16,586 unused scholarship money from 1996/1997) which were allocated to three specific areas: Education, Health, and Agriculture.

Education: The Trustees received 262 applications for scholarships and approved 241 students to receive \$161,800. This amount includes the two \$1,000 Wells Scholarships in honor of Ralph and Hilda Haskins. The Trustees spent many hours on the selection process to ensure that as many students as possible could receive scholarship aid.

Health: Two (2) health programs were approved. The following received funds totaling \$10,500:

Partners Anonymous in Greenfield	\$ 500.00
NELCWITT	\$10,000.00

Agriculture: An amount of \$8,563.87 was allocated by the Board of Trustees for payment:

Franklin County Agriculture Society	\$5,263.87
Heath Agriculture Fair	3,000.00
Shelburne Grange Fair	300.00

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Smiaroski
Trustee

DEERFIELD SCHOOL REPORT

Martha Barrett, Chair
Deerfield School Committee
Deerfield, MA 01373

Dear Ms. Barrett:

I respectfully submit the 1998 Annual Report for the Deerfield Elementary School:

DEERFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TERM EXPIRES

Martha Barrett, Chair	2000
Kenneth Cuddeback, Member	1999
*Mary Ramon, Member	2000
Debra Sokoloski, Member	2001
Al Olmstead, Member	2001

*Representative to Frontier Regional

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent	John J. Welch, Ed.D.
Business Manager	Donald M. Scott
Special Education Director	William Hickey, Ed.D.
Administrative Secretary	Judy Wood
Administrative Secretary	Mary Ann Gagen
Special Education Secretary	Diana Capuano
Receptionist	Brenda Rotkiewicz
Bookkeeper, Union #38	Paula Light
Bookkeeper, Grants	Stephan Shepherd
Principal	Douglas Tierney
Secretary to Principal	Janet Stellman
Secretary to Principal	Helen Scott

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 1998

Grade	Boys	Girls	Total
PreK	21	18	39
K	25	23	48
1	25	32	57
2	29	19	48
3	28	32	60
4	36	24	60
5	31	32	63
6	31	27	58
Daybreak Program	6	1	7
Extension Program	1	1	2
Total	241	213	454

FINANCIAL REPORT

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

**SUMMARY OF
BUDGET RELATED EXPENDITURES**

JULY 1, 1997 - JUNE 30, 1998

CATEGORY	REGULAR EDUCATION	SPECIAL EDUCATION	TOTAL
1000 ADMINISTRATION	\$110,331.00	\$16,737.00	\$127,068.00
2000 INSTRUCTION	1,260,329.00	250,444.00	1,510,773.00
3000 OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES	86,222.00	36,413.00	122,635.00
4000 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	184,444.00	-0-	184,444.00
5000 FIXED CHARGES	21,050.00	-0-	21,050.00
6000 COMMUNITY SERVICES	2,880.00	-0-	2,880.00
7000 ACQUISITION OF FIXED ASSETS	10,825.00	-0-	10,825.00
9000 PROGRAMS WITH OTHER DISTRICTS	-0-	273,628.00	273,628.00
TOTALS	\$1,676,081.00	\$577,222.00	\$2,253,303.00

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL 1998 ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to submit the annual report of Franklin County Technical School. The significant events that have transpired during the past year are noted. The October 1, 1998 enrollment was as follows:

Bernardston	18	Deerfield	16	Heath	7	Northfield	12	Warwick	7
Buckland	18	Erving	8	Leyden	5	Orange	78	Wendell	10
Colrain	35	Gill	4	Montague	55	Shelburne	11	Whately	7
Conway	11	Greenfield	137	New Salem	7	Sunderland	13	Non-District	28

Our work experience and cooperative work programs continue to be an effective method for job placement of our students. In June 1998, 73 students graduated and their placement record was as follows:

Entered Work Force 47 Entered College 24 Entered Military 2

Student Awards Highlights:

University of Massachusetts Scholars: Christine A. Mullen; Ashley T. Barstow.

Outstanding Vocational Technical Student: Christine A. Mullen.

Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence: Ashley T. Barstow.

Franklin County Rotary Club Most Improved Student Awards: Donna Babcock; Jennifer Clough; Chad Gates; Sandra Gonzales; Scott Grover; Ranaye Hardy; Sandra Krouse; Jason Secord; Robert Sokoloski; Kenneth Vight.

Community service projects for surrounding towns and organizations continue to be an integral part of our vocational programs. The second year of our Franklin Medical Center's Beacon Housing Program is underway with completion set for June of 1999. In addition, we will be constructing an information center at the Whately Transfer Station; building picnic tables and a gate for Sunderland's Town Park; building a stage addition for the Sunderland Elementary School; providing wiring for the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Home and Trade Show; finishing the airport project in Turners Falls and providing a variety of services for other towns when needed.

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to the entire educational community and residents Franklin County Technical School and to all the residents of the County for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Fournier
School Committee Chairman

Frederick H. Green, III
Superintendent - Director

FRONTIER SCHOOL REPORT

Mr. John Wholey, Chairman
Frontier Regional School District Committee
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Dear Mr. Wholey:

I respectfully submit the 1998 Frontier Regional School Annual Report.

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TERM EXPIRES

John Wholey, Chair, Conway	2001
Karl Koenigsbauer, V.Chair, Deerfield	2000
William Smith, Secretary, Whately	2000
Elvery Veal, Sunderland	1999
Thomas Scanlon, Deerfield	1999
*John Rioux, Conway	1999
*Mary Ramon, Deerfield	1999
*Diane Gumaer, Sunderland	1999
*Kathy Marchand, Whately	1999

*Representing the local Elementary School Committees for one year term.

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Media Center, Frontier Regional School, South Deerfield, Massachusetts at 7:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

John J. Welch, Ed.D.	Superintendent of Schools
Donald M. Scott	Business Manager/Treasurer
William Hickey, Ed.D.	Special Education Director
Patricia Stachelek	Frontier Regional Bookkeeper
Stephan Shepherd	Grants Bookkeeper
Judith Wood	Administrative Secretary
Mary Ann Gagen	Administrative Secretary
Patricia Barber	Special Education Secretary
Glenn Frank, Ed.D.	Principal
Deborah Carter	Assistant Principal
Kelly Blanchette	Secretary
Sue Redmond	Secretary
Roberta Reiter	Secretary
Evelyn Kaweck	Guidance Secretary

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 1998

Grade	Tuition				Tuition Students	Total
	Conway	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately		
7	24	57	27	18		126
8	34	53	22	15		124
9	20	43	26	20	2	111
10	18	44	17	20	4	103
11	18	56	26	17	1	118
<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>101</u>
Total	134	297	136	106	10	683

FRONTIER REGIONAL

SALARY SCHEDULE

September 1998 - June 1999

STEP	B	M	M+30
1	24,874	26,174	27,773
2	26,035	27,287	28,825
3	27,374	28,475	29,916
4	28,510	29,688	31,043
5	29,213	30,949	32,212
6	30,235	31,939	33,394
7	31,027	32,987	34,649
8	32,362	34,039	35,794
9	33,217	35,120	36,945
10	34,095	36,005	38,613
11	35,793	38,051	40,331
12	37,669	40,254	42,100
13	38,294	41,739	44,044
14	39,784	43,282	45,622
20L	40,284	43,782	46,122

Placement on Step 20L occurs when an individual has completed 19 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.

TOWN REPORT

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

September 1998 marked the beginning of "the new Frontier." We are grateful to our communities of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately for their sacrifices to build this wonderful school.

We began the 1998 school year in our new building, with bright, spacious classrooms, an air-conditioned auditorium, state-of-the-art science labs, 350 computers (including 5 computer labs), a television studio, and an expanded and renovated cafeteria and kitchen are but a few of the features of this multi-million dollar complex.

Arts Department

For all members it has been a delight to find us in a new facility with wonderful new equipment. The Music department has had occasion to shine in the new auditorium. Chorus and band members sparked at the recent holiday concert and at the school's dedication ceremony. The Art program finds itself with greatly expanded space and an entire new room dedicated to ceramics. Students are excitedly working on potter's wheels for the first time and we look forward to increased enrollment in this area. Technology Education has also been able to expand its offerings with an entire computer room dedicated to CAD and design. Video production is a recent addition to the Arts department. This new area offers students a chance to work with cutting edge technology; editing a d producing their won videos, while sharpening critical thinking skills and examining the media with a practical eye.

Business Department

The Business department is ecstatic with our new technology. Not only are we able to offer new technology courses such as Excel, Access, and Computing I and II, we continue to offer and enhance the Windows 95/Microsoft Office 97, Word and Internet application courses. We look forward to new offerings such as Powerpoint and Publishing.

Special Education

Special education services are delivered by three certified teachers with instructional aides on each of the three instructional teams in the Middle School at Frontier. Within each team, special education students are included in the regular classroom for most of their instruction. Support is provided by the special education staff and modified instruction by the regular education staff. Individualized and small group instruction is provided on each team during specially structured times during the week.

The High School special education staff is currently working with students for MCAS. There are resource classes offered in Algebra, Geometry, and English. Skills Labs are offered to assist students in regular classes. In addition, special needs teachers work along side the regular education teachers in modifying and accommodating class work to meet the individual needs of the students.

Physical Education, Health, and Family Consumer Science

The weight training/fitness program is now in full operation. There is also a weight lifting club that works out after-school. Many THANKS again to our neighbors at the Deerfield Town Offices and the Deerfield Elementary School for the use of their fields during construction. Our PE curriculum has expanded to offer more leisure time activities: table tennis, badminton, tennis, ultimate Frisbee and or course, our exercise program with tread mills, cycles, stair masters, etc. Our health curriculum continues to offer not only first aid, but a CPR course as well.

Social Studies Department

The department has added a Humanities course focusing on local history and life at the turns of centuries. This course has been added through the use of grant money and help from the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association.

Next year European History will become World Cultures and will be split into three parts: a 7th grade unit on Early World Cultures, a 9th grade required semester covering 500-1815 A.D., and a 10th grade required semester on the last two hundred years. U.S. History will be divided into Colonial-1865 in 8th grade, and 1865-Present in 11th grade (the 11th grade course will not begin until two years from now).

English Department

The English department is offering an Advanced Placement course in Literature for the first time. It is a year long course worth ten credits and culminates with the AP exam in May. We are enjoying reading some of the traditional literary canon materials, and also training for students to perform in the timed exam setting.

Long term projects for the department include the following: 1) Writing a curriculum guide outlining all of our courses 2) Developing a plan to strengthen our students abilities to test well on the MCAS without losing our focus and only teaching to the test.

Foreign Language Department

A new course offering for the Middle School will begin in the spring of '99. A semester of Spanish or French can be taken in Grade 7 and another semester in Grade 8. The combined study equals level one of the language.

In the spring of 1998 Mrs. Averill was joined by eleven Frontier students on a ten day trip to Italy, touring Venice, Florence, Capri and Rome, with side-trips to Sienna and Pompeii. Mrs. Yelle is planning a trip to Quebec in May '99 and Mrs. Niedzielski has plans for student ravel to Spain after school closes in June.

Guidance Department

This year, the Guidance department sponsored two major programs – a Princeton Review SAT Preparation course, and the Frontier Regional Peer Mediation Program. Both

of these have had a high rate of success in our school community. Regular guidance publications include a bi-monthly Scholarship Update and a Guidance Update which is published four times per year. In addition, the Guidance department has a World Wide Web site (www.schoolnotes.com/01373/frsguidance.html), and an email address (frsguidance@hotmail.com). We continue to make communications and dissemination a top priority.

Library Media Center

“Consider the possibilities!” For Frontier students and staff, technology has expanded the possibilities for individual intellectual growth, in-depth research utilizing current information, and creative presentation of work. Plain books fit nicely among the 28 computers, offering a rich balance of resources for reading and research. Special collections of Pioneer Valley materials offer insights into the literature, history, art, and natural history of the Valley. Access to materials beyond the physical space of the LMC is possible through the CWSMARS Union catalog, as well as through the automated catalogs of individual libraries in Western Massachusetts. These catalogs, as Frontier’s are accessed via the Internet. Interlibrary loan is available to our students and these materials are delivered weekly via the Bookmobile. Numerous CD-ROM databases, expanding the depth of the print collection, are on the network for all students and staff to access.

Math Department

The Mathematics department continues to revise and build upon its curriculum in order to meet the demands of MCAS testing and the technological requirements of society in the 21st Century. The acquisition of graphing calculators has allowed the department to enhance upper-level courses by providing the means to analyze complicated functions and perform involved calculations. The new math sequence (Math I, II, and III) replaces the old Algebra and Geometry sequence meets the demands of MCAS by emphasizing use of technology, solving open-ended problems, and place more emphasis on important topics such as probability, statistics and mathematical modeling. The Middle School continues to emphasize open-ended problem solving in conjunction with portfolio assessment. The department continues to work toward providing a challenging math experience for all students.

Science Department

All science classes are not being taught in new, appropriately equipped science rooms. We are looking forward to the purchase of peripheral equipment and software to enhance the computer facilities in each lab.

With the retirement of the science department chairman, Leon (Butch) Farrick, Andrew Rohrs was appointed as the new Science Department Chairman, a position he has held in the past.

1998

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I am pleased to submit my sixth annual report of the Deerfield Elementary School. The success of this school is really a function of how well people work together. Our progress as an educational institution is attributable to the outstanding commitment to excellence demonstrated by the School Committee, administration, faculty, staff parents and children who comprise Deerfield Elementary School. The standard of care and emphasis on growth that characterizes the daily operation of the school is truly admirable. We are indeed fortunate.

Curriculum initiatives addressing the areas of early literacy, reading instruction, spelling, mathematics, science, and technology continue to take center stage. Of paramount importance, however, is our objective to ensure that all students are capable of reading with confidence and competence by the end of grade three. Thus we continue to provide extensive training and curriculum work with all pre-school through grade three faculty to strengthen our reading and writing programs for early readers.

The science program, often a subject receiving less emphasis at the elementary level, is fast becoming an extremely strong program. Both physical science and earth science have been skillfully integrated into the K-6 continuum. We look forward to the development of a life sciences component as well.

The performance of fourth, eighth and tenth grade students on the first administration of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) program last Spring provided us with valuable information about the relevancy of our curriculum and the capacity of our students to meet rigorous state learning standards. In fact, students entering grade ten in 2000-2001 will be expected to pass examinations in mathematics, English, science and social science in order to graduate from high school. Consequently, we intend to use this data both now and in the future to assist all students in meeting this extremely important requirement.

It was a special time at Frontier Regional School as construction of the new and expanded facility neared completion. The completion of the new school represents an extraordinary accomplishment spanning almost nine years. But it has been worth the wait. It is a beautiful facility that will serve the interests of secondary students for years to come.

The integration of technology into the curriculum has been a major focal point this year. With the addition of 350 computers, smart boards, a TV production studio, televisions in every classroom, a media retrieval system, and graphing calculators in high school math classes, there are many opportunities for students to use technology to enhance and broaden their learning experiences. Staff have been busy learning how to use and implement this new technology in order to offer a broad range of learning and assessment opportunities for students. Dr. Diana Campbell, Mrs. Holly Dobson and Mr. Darren Wilkes are to be particularly commended for their efforts to offer staff training and assistance in this new technology.

Frontier staff have also been busy this year beginning a curriculum revision project that will better align the course work at Frontier to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. A major review and revision of the mathematics program began last summer. The program is currently being implemented in math classes. Math teachers are now reviewing MCAS data to determine how directly our student test results are addressed in the actual draft of the curriculum. The math department will present this curriculum to the School Committee in April. Curriculum work in science and technology as well as history and social sciences will begin this Spring.

A third advanced placement course in English began this year. This literature course brings us to a total of three AP courses at Frontier. We received funding from the Department of Education to develop a fourth course in American Government. This course will be implemented in the fall of 1999.

Frontier has embarked on the self-study for the NEASC accreditation that will take place in October 2000. This is a major task that involves not only Frontier staff and students, but also parents and community members. Mrs. Mary Ellen Warchol and Dr. Janice Dore will be co-chairing this project. Committee chairs have been appointed and committees have begun work on review of the standards that we must show evidence of to the visiting committee. The School Committee has provided release time to begin this process, but our success will require a major commitment of time and energy by staff outside of school hours.

I conclude this report by thanking the fine group of School Committee members, faculty, staff and parents for their generous contribution of time and talent. I would especially like to acknowledge the leadership of our able principal, Douglas Tierney, who has been at the forefront of much that is good and wholesome about Deerfield Elementary School. Together we are making a difference; together we are planning for the future; together we are insuring that all children receive the best possible education.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Welch, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



5/20/2011

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